



# FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

J.C. Watts, Jr.  
Chairman  
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and  
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business  
(No Votes Before 6:00 p.m.)*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 1749—Designating Wilson Creek as a Wild and Scenic River**  
**S. 613—Indian Tribal Economic Development and Contract Encouragement Act**  
**H.R. 2484—Lower Sioux Indian Community Land Lease and Transfer Act**

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## **Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider the following three bills under suspension of the rules as its only order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**H.R. 1749** designates the 23.3-mile segment of Wilson Creek in North Carolina as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Specifically, the bill establishes the following classifications: (1) 2.9 miles as a scenic river; (2) 4.6 miles as a wild river; and (3) 15.8 miles as a recreational river. The bill directs the Agriculture Secretary to administer the creek in a manner intended to preserve its free-flowing condition. The bill was introduced by Mr. Ballenger and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on February 16, 1999.

**S. 613—Indian Tribal Economic Development and Contract Encouragement Act** amends a 125-year-old law to specify under what circumstances federal approval is needed for Indian tribes to enter into an agreement or contract. Specifically, the bill (1) specifies that an agreement must be approved by the Interior Secretary if it encumbers Indian land for a period of seven years or more; and (2) eliminates any statutory requirement for federal review of contracts between Indian tribes and attorneys. Current law requires the approval of the Interior Department for all contracts involving payments between non-Indians and Indians for services related to tribal lands. The Senate passed S. 613 by unanimous consent on September 15, 1999. The Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote on February 16, 2000.

**H.R. 2484—Lower Sioux Indian Community Land Lease and Transfer Act** allows the Lower Sioux Indian Community in Minnesota to lease or transfer land that they own without seeking further approval from the federal government, so long as the land is not held in trust by the United States. The bill frees the Lower Sioux Reservation from current law that prohibits Indian reservations from leasing or transferring land that they own without federal approval. The reservation is located in Redwood County, two miles south of Morton, Minnesota. The bill was introduced by Mr. Minge and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on February 16, 2000.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #4, February 25, 2000.

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